GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
NON-AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES
BIR SING MAHATO;LAXMAN GILUWA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is acute shortage of essential medicines in Allopathic and Ayurvedic CGHS dispensaries/hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make available medicines in these dispensaries/hospitals;

(d) the worth of medicines bought by the CGHS beneficiaries directly from the authorised chemists during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure quality and availability of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries/hospitals?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 FOR 5.3.2003

(a) No Sir. By and large, commonly used day-to-day medicines are available in the CGHS allopathic/Ayurvedic dispensaries in the country. Allopathic medicines prescribed by the specialists, which are not available in the CGHS dispensaries, are procured from authorized local chemists against individual prescription of the patients. In the event of non-availability of non-formulary Ayurvedic medicines in the CGHS dispensaries, which are prescribed by the Authorized Physician, the beneficiary is advised to procure the medicines from the open market and get reimbursement from the Government.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c)&(e): Bulk purchase of generic drugs, as per formulary and rate contract prevalent in Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT) of Delhi, are being undertaken to ensure availability and supply of generic drugs.These drugs are pre-tested for their quality. Similarly, bulk purchase of proprietary drugs are also being undertaken directly from the manufacturing firms after negotiation of the rates with them to derive maximum advantage/concession from them. This procedure, apart from being cost effective, ensures quality of medicines supplied.

(d) CGHS beneficiaries do not buy medicines directly from the authorized local chemists appointed under CGHS.